

**BEFORE THE DISTRICT 12 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
EVIDENTIARY PANEL 12-2
STATE BAR OF TEXAS**

**COMMISSION FOR LAWYER
DISCIPLINE,
Petitioner**

V.

**JACQUELINE LEFEVRE,
Respondent**

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**201603333 [Lopez-Zepeda]
201703365 [Belmontes]**

AGREED JUDGMENT OF PARTIALLY PROBATED SUSPENSION

Parties and Appearance

On this day came to be heard the above styled and numbered cause. Petitioner and Respondent, JACQUELINE LEFEVRE, Texas Bar Number 24027947, announce that an agreement has been reached on all matters including the imposition of a Partially Probated Suspension.

Jurisdiction and Venue

The Evidentiary Panel 12-2 having been duly appointed to hear this complaint by the chair of the Grievance Committee for State Bar of Texas District 12, finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this action, and that venue is proper.

Professional Misconduct

The Evidentiary Panel, having considered the pleadings, admissions, stipulations and agreements of the parties, finds Respondent has committed Professional Misconduct as defined by Rule 1.06(W) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Findings of Fact

Petitioner and Respondent agree to the following findings of fact. Accordingly, the



Evidentiary Panel finds:

1. Respondent is an attorney licensed to practice law in Texas and is a member of the State Bar of Texas.
2. Respondent resides in and maintains her principal place of practice in Hidalgo County, Texas.
3. Complainant Anna Elisa Lopez-Zepeda hired Respondent to handle a claim for damages. Respondent failed to keep the client informed as to the status of the matter and relocated her office without informing her client of the new address and contact information.
4. Complainant Cecilia Belmontes hired Respondent to represent Belmontes concerning her father's real estate.
5. Respondent failed to communicate with Belmontes and eventually sent a text advising Belmontes to hire a different attorney. Belmontes requested a refund of her payment, but Respondent failed to promptly refund the unearned fee.
6. When a lawsuit resulted in the controversy, Respondent appeared as counsel in opposition to Belmontes.
7. Belmontes filed a grievance with the State Bar of Texas. Respondent failed to timely respond as required.
8. The Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas has incurred reasonable attorneys' fees and direct expenses associated with this Disciplinary Proceeding in the amount of \$1,250.00.

Conclusions of Law

Petitioner and Respondent agree that, based on the foregoing findings of fact, the following Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct have been violated. Accordingly, the Evidentiary Panel concludes that the following Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct have been violated: 1.03(a), 1.03(b), 1.06, 1.15(d), 8.04(a)(8).

Sanction

It is AGREED and ORDERED that the sanction of a Partially Probated Suspension shall be imposed against Respondent in accordance with the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. The Evidentiary Panel finds that the sanction imposed against Respondent is the appropriate sanction for each of the violations set forth in this judgment.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that Respondent be

suspended from the practice of law for a period of 3 years, beginning October 1, 2018 and ending September 30, 2021, provided Respondent complies with the following terms and conditions. Respondent shall be actively suspended from the practice of law for a period of 4 months beginning October 1, 2018 and ending January 31, 2019. The 32-month period of probated suspension shall begin on February 1, 2019 and shall end on September 30, 2021.

Terms of Active Suspension

It is further ORDERED that during the term of active suspension ordered herein, or that may be imposed upon Respondent by the Board of Disciplinary Appeals as a result of a probation revocation proceeding, Respondent shall be prohibited from practicing law in Texas; holding herself out as an attorney at law; performing any legal services for others; accepting any fee directly or indirectly for legal services; appearing as counsel or in any representative capacity in any proceeding in any Texas or Federal court or before any administrative body; or holding herself out to others or using her name, in any manner, in conjunction with the words "attorney at law," "attorney," "counselor at law," or "lawyer."

It is further ORDERED that, on or before October 1, 2018, Respondent shall notify each of Respondent's current clients and opposing counsel in writing of this suspension.

In addition to such notification, it is further ORDERED Respondent shall return any files, papers, unearned monies and other property belonging to current clients in Respondent's possession to the respective clients or, at the client's request, to another attorney. It is further ORDERED Respondent shall file with the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701), on or before October 15, 2018 an affidavit stating all current clients and

opposing counsel have been notified of Respondent's suspension and that all files, papers, monies and other property belonging to all current clients have been returned as ordered herein.

It is further ORDERED Respondent shall, on or before October 1, 2018, notify in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, administrative judge or officer and chief justice of each and every court or tribunal in which Respondent has any matter pending of the terms of this judgment, the style and cause number of the pending matter(s), and the name, address and telephone number of the client(s) Respondent is representing.

It is further ORDERED Respondent shall file with the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701), on or before October 15, 2018, an affidavit stating Respondent has notified in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each and every court in which Respondent has any matter pending of the terms of this judgment, the style and cause number of the pending matter(s), and the name, address and telephone number of the client(s) Respondent is representing in Court.

It is further ORDERED that, on or before October 15, 2018, Respondent shall surrender his law license and permanent State Bar Card to the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701), to be forwarded to the Supreme Court of Texas.

Terms of Probation

It is further ORDERED that during all periods of suspension, Respondent shall be

under the following terms and conditions:

1. Respondent shall not violate any term of this judgment.
2. Respondent shall not engage in professional misconduct as defined by Rule 1.06(W) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.
3. Respondent shall not violate any state or federal criminal statutes.
4. Respondent shall keep State Bar of Texas membership department notified of current mailing, residence and business addresses and telephone numbers.
5. Respondent shall comply with Minimum Continuing Legal Education requirements.
6. Respondent shall comply with Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (IOLTA) requirements.
7. Respondent shall promptly respond to any request for information from the Chief Disciplinary Counsel in connection with any investigation of any allegations of professional misconduct.
8. Respondent shall pay all reasonable and necessary attorney's fees and direct expenses to the State Bar of Texas in the amount of \$1,250.00. The payment shall be due and payable on or before November 1, 2018, and shall be made by certified or cashier's check or money order. Respondent shall forward the funds, made payable to the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701).
9. In addition to complying with the Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) requirements of the State Bar of Texas, Respondent shall complete 9 additional hours of continuing legal education in the area of Law Practice Management. These additional hours of CLE are to be completed by May 1, 2019. Within ten (10) days of the completion of these additional CLE hours, Respondent shall verify completion of the course to the State Bar of Texas, via USPS: Office of the CDC, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487; or via Delivery: Office of the CDC, State Bar of Texas, 1414 Colorado St., Suite 200, Austin, TX 78701.
10. Respondent shall make contact with the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Offices' Compliance Monitor at 877-953-5535, ext. 1334 and Special Programs Coordinator at 877-953-5535, ext. 1323, not later than seven (7) days after receipt of a copy of this judgment to coordinate Respondent's compliance.

Probation Revocation

Upon information that Respondent has violated a term of this judgment, the Chief Disciplinary Counsel may, in addition to all other remedies available, file a motion to revoke probation pursuant to Rule 2.23 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure with the Board of Disciplinary Appeals ("BODA") and serve a copy of the motion on Respondent pursuant to Tex.R.Civ.P. 21a.

BODA shall conduct an evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, BODA shall determine by a preponderance of the evidence whether Respondent has violated any term of this Judgment. If BODA finds grounds for revocation, BODA shall enter an order revoking probation and placing Respondent on active suspension from the date of such revocation order. Respondent shall not be given credit for any term of probation served prior to revocation.

It is further ORDERED that any conduct on the part of Respondent which serves as the basis for a motion to revoke probation may also be brought as independent grounds for discipline as allowed under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Attorney's Fees and Expenses

It is further ORDERED Respondent shall pay all reasonable and necessary attorney's fees and direct expenses to the State Bar of Texas in the amount of \$1,250.00. The payment shall be due and payable on or before November 1, 2018, and shall be made by certified or cashier's check or money order. Respondent shall forward the funds, made payable to the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701).

It is further ORDERED that all amounts ordered herein are due to the misconduct of Respondent, are assessed as a part of the sanction in accordance with Rule 1.06(Z) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. Any amount not paid shall accrue interest at the maximum legal rate per annum until paid and the State Bar of Texas shall have all writs and other post-judgment remedies against Respondent in order to collect all unpaid amounts.

It is further ORDERED that Respondent shall remain actively suspended from the practice of law as set out above until such time as Respondent has completely paid attorney fees and direct expenses in the amount of \$1,250.00 to the State Bar of Texas.

Publication

This suspension shall be made a matter of record and appropriately published in accordance with the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Other Relief

All requested relief not expressly granted herein is expressly DENIED.

SIGNED this 23rd day of August, 2018.

EVIDENTIARY PANEL 12-2
DISTRICT NO. 12
STATE BAR OF TEXAS


AIZAR J. KARAM, JR.
District 12-2 Presiding Member

AGREED AS TO BOTH FORM AND SUBSTANCE:


JACQUELINE LEFEVRE
State Bar No. 24027947
Respondent

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel
State Bar of Texas
711 Navarro, Suite 750
San Antonio, Texas 78205
Telephone: (210) 208-6600
Facsimile: (210) 208-6625

By: 

Paul H. Homburg III
State Bar No. 09934050

Counsel for Petitioner